

Use Week of:

Unit 27 • Session 1

Jesus' Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 28; John 20

STORY POINT:

God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.



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LEADER Bible Study

The time between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning must have been dark hours for Jesus' disciples. Fear, doubt, and confusion certainly overwhelmed their thoughts. Jesus, their Lord, was dead. He had been unjustly arrested, falsely accused, and severely beaten. Even worse, He had been killed in a horrible manner: by crucifixion.

The story doesn't end there. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb. The tomb was sealed and guards watched over it. The Jews remembered Jesus' claim that He would rise from the dead (John 2:19-21), and they made sure no one could steal His body and insist He had risen. Imagine their surprise when Jesus *did* rise from the dead!

John and Peter saw the empty tomb. Jesus appeared to Mary. The disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead. Even though the guards at the tomb were bribed to lie about what happened (they said the disciples stole Jesus' body), the truth spread. The disciples wouldn't have dedicated their lives and died for something they knew was a lie.

If Christ had remained dead, His death would have meant nothing more than yours or mine. Humanity would still be dead in sin. But God gives us victory over sin and death through His Son, Jesus. The resurrection gives us hope that we too will one day be raised and changed. (See Rom. 6:5; 8:11.)

Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 15:17 just how essential Jesus' resurrection is to the gospel: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." The resurrection is proof that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and that God's new covenant had begun.

Emphasize to the kids you teach that Jesus is alive! We believe this by faith. Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and reigns as King over all of creation. (Phil. 2:9-10)

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Resurrection

Matthew 28; John 20

On the third day after Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. It was still dark, and she saw that the large stone at the entrance had been moved away.

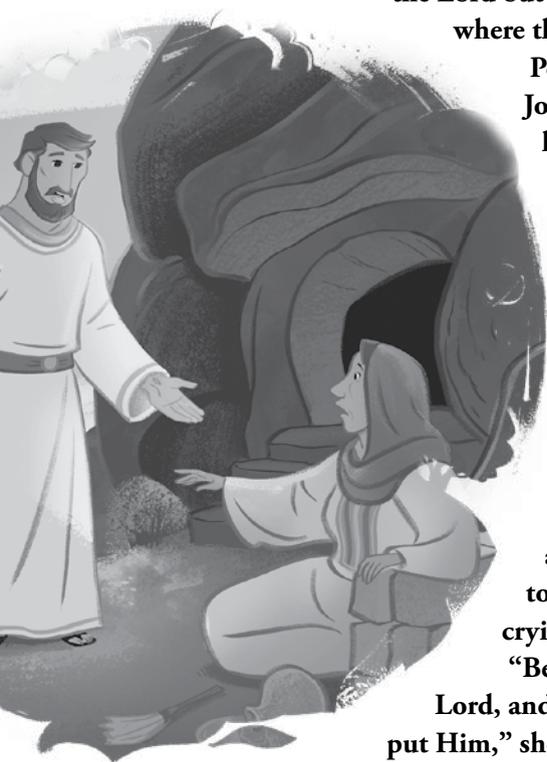
Mary ran to Simon Peter and John. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put Him!" she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and saw the linen cloths lying there. Then Peter went into the tomb and saw the linen cloths too. The cloth that had been around Jesus' head was folded up. John believed that Jesus was alive. Then Peter and John went back home.

Mary went back to the tomb and cried. When she looked inside, she saw two angels sitting there. They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"Because they've taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put Him," she said. Then Mary turned around. Jesus stood in front of her, but she did not recognize Him. Jesus said, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought Jesus might be the gardener. She replied, "Sir, if



you have taken Jesus away, tell me where you've put Him and I will go get Him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Mary realized who He was and said, "Teacher!"

Jesus sent Mary to tell the other disciples that He was going back to the Father. Mary did what Jesus said, and she told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"

Meanwhile, some of the guards from Jesus' tomb went into the city and told the religious leaders everything that had happened. The leaders got together and made a plan. They gave the soldiers a lot of money and told them to lie about what they saw.

"Say that Jesus' disciples came in the night and stole His body while you were sleeping," they said. The guards took the money and lied about Jesus' resurrection.

Christ Connection: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use models:** Display a small tomb and stone made of play dough. Remove the stone for kids to look inside the empty tomb.
- **Vary facial expressions:** Emphasize various facial expressions to reflect the emotions of people in the Bible story.

INTRODUCE the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss a time they were given great news. What was the news?

SAY • It's always fun to get good news. Whether you got a good grade on a difficult project or found out your family would take a vacation to a place you've always wanted to visit, good news just feels ... well, good! Today we will learn about the best news in the world and a woman who got to tell others about it.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Best Day Ever" activity page. In the space provided, kids will draw a picture to show what they did or would do to have the best day ever.

SAY • We could do a lot of fun things to have a great day. Maybe visiting a theme park or favorite restaurant would make your day feel special. Today we will talk about the best day in the history of the whole world. What do you think happened that made that day so wonderful?

- "Best Day Ever" activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: One foot wobblers

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. When you say “go,” kids will lift one foot. Whoever is able to stand on one foot the longest wins the game.

SAY • It was really difficult to stay standing on one foot for long. Eventually, you had to put your other foot down. Today, we will learn about a time Jesus rose from the dead. He couldn’t stay dead and had to rise again.

OPTION 2: Alive or not?

Print a copy of the “Alive or Not?” printable. Display each picture one at a time. Instruct the kids to move to one side of the room or the other depending on whether the item pictured is alive or not. You may choose to hang signs that read *Alive* and *Not Alive* to help the kids remember which side of the room represents each option.

- “Alive or Not?” printable
- paper (optional)
- pen (optional)
- tape (optional)

SAY • It’s usually pretty easy to tell if something is alive or not. Some things—like plants or fungi—might be a little tricky because they are alive even though they can’t move, make sounds, or do other things that we often think of when we think of life. Today we will learn about a time someone who was not alive became alive again. Can you guess who? That’s right—Jesus!

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Decorate the room to look like a farm. Position hay bales around the stage and lean tools such as a hoe and pitchfork against them. Consider using foam board to make a backdrop that looks like a field of grain, an orchard, or a barn and silo.

Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire

[Leader enters wearing a flannel shirt and overalls.]

LEADER • Howdy! Welcome to my farm. We're getting pretty close to harvest time, so things are quite busy around here. Though, to be fair, things are always busy on the farm! If you aren't harvesting crops, you're tending them or planting them or tilling the soil to be ready to plant them. The work never really stops.

We grow all kinds of crops here, but the big ones for me are corn and soybeans. One of my favorite things about being a farmer is when a new year of crops just begins to sprout. Corn grows into huge,

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

tall stalks, but when it's just starting out, the green sprouts are actually quite small.

Before sprouting, kernels of corn look dry, hard, and dead. But when they buried and watered correctly, they split open and the evidence of new life shoots out. It makes me think of our Bible story. Jesus had died and been buried, but He didn't stay dead for long! Let me tell you about it.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • As we learn about what happened after Jesus' death on the cross, we can focus on a big picture question to help guide our learning: *Where is Jesus now?* Think about that question while we get into the story. You might already know the answer, but see if anything in this story can help you explain the answer to someone else.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

· Giant Timeline

LEADER • Jesus had grown very popular among the people, but the religious leaders hated Him. They worked out a plan to have Jesus killed. As the people began to see that Jesus didn't intend to overthrow the Romans, they also turned against Jesus. One of Jesus' disciples betrayed Jesus, and the religious leaders convinced the Roman governor to crucify Jesus. It was the saddest day in history, but we call it Good Friday because it was the day Jesus paid for our sin. Thankfully, that brings us to our story today. It's called "Jesus' Resurrection!"

- Bibles
- “Jesus’ Resurrection” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 28; John 20. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus’ Resurrection.”

LEADER • Everything about the world changed when Jesus rose from the dead. For the first time since Adam and Eve, it was possible for people to be truly reunited with God. The first Easter Sunday is the foundation of our entire faith. It is the most important event in all of history.

Jesus’ birth was miraculous and wonderful, but without the resurrection it would not have mattered. Jesus’ living a sinless life was vital to His payment for sin, but His perfection wasn’t enough to pay for sins. Jesus’ death on the cross covered the cost of our sin, but without the resurrection, His victory wouldn’t be complete. **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.**

Without faith in Jesus, people are slaves to sin. They have no choice but to act in sinful ways that go against God and His perfect plan. Jesus’ victory over sin and death provides us with victory as well. God did not just forgive all our past sins, leaving our future sins unforgiven. God forgives all our sins for all time. Those in Christ are promised new life with God forever.

Christ connection

LEADER • Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn’t stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

promise of eternal life.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 27, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about how we can know if someone has forgiven us. Guide them to discuss the difference between feeling repentant and feeling consistently guilty.

• “Unit 27, Session 1”
Questions from Kids
video

Missions moment (3 minutes)

Play the “Gospel on the Move” missions video. Ask the kids in your group about any experiences they have camping.

• “Gospel on the Move”
missions video

LEADER • Missionaries have to go camping sometimes just to reach people with Jesus’ love. They are willing to go to hard places and into difficult situations because they have an important message—the same one we’re learning: **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.**

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 11:25. Then sing the key passage song.

• Key Passage Poster
• “Live (John 11:25)”
song

LEADER • Jesus is the resurrection and the life. That means that His resurrection from the dead proved His victory over all sin and death. Everyone who has faith in Him will live forever with God.

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Jesus is our risen King. He lives forever, and because of His victory over sin and death, we can live forever too. Let’s praise Him together.

• “Jesus, Our Savior”
song

Sing together “Jesus, Our Savior.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Father, thank You that Jesus did not stay dead.

Thank You that we get to live in victory over sin and death because of Jesus' victorious resurrection. Help us trust You and walk in loving obedience to Your Word. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- marker
- paper plates

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate paper plate. Provide a plate to each kid. Allow the kids to take turns tossing their plates like discs to land them in the correct order. Say the key passage multiple times together, and encourage the kids to memorize the passage over the next few weeks.

SAY • Jesus spoke these words right before He raised Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus Himself rose from the dead, He proved just how true His words were! Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin, and His resurrection proved His payment was enough. Because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we can be certain we will live forever with God too, if we have faith in Jesus.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Matthew 28. Consider using the New Testament Israel Map to point out where Jerusalem is. (*H4*) Explain that most of the stories over the next few weeks took place in or around Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified and buried.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Which woman was among the first people to learn of Jesus' resurrection? (*Mary Magdalene, Matt. 28:1*)
2. When Mary met Jesus, what did He tell her to do? (*go and tell the other disciples about His resurrection, Matt. 28:10*)
3. How did the religious leaders try to prevent people from learning about Jesus' resurrection? (*They bribed the soldiers to lie, saying the disciples stole the body; Matt. 28:12-15*)
4. Why is it important to know Jesus rose from the dead? *Guide kids to think about what Jesus' resurrection proved about His power over death. Had Jesus remained dead, it would show that His sacrifice was not perfect and did not fully pay for sin.*
5. What does it mean that Jesus defeated sin and death? *Guide kids to think about the control sin has over the lives of those who are lost. Discuss the phrase "dead in sin" and the implication that we are powerless against sin. Remind kids that sin leads to death, both physical (we all die eventually) and spiritual (we are separated from God). Jesus' victory over sin and death means we will rise again to live forever with God in a perfectly restored world.*
6. How do you feel when you think about Jesus' resurrection? *Guide kids to think through and process their emotions. Do they feel happy? Excited? Unsure? Remind kids that our feelings do not define what is true, but they can help us understand the truth of the gospel.*

SAY • God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death. Everyone who has faith in Jesus will live forever with God.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- chairs
- tablecloths, 2
- clothespins (optional)

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Tentmakers

Form two groups of kids. Instruct the groups to set up tents using chairs and tablecloths. You may choose to provide clothespins to help the kids construct their tents.

SAY • In the missions video, we saw how this East Asian people group lives in a round shelter called a *ger* (GHER) that can be put up and taken down pretty quickly because they move around so much. How would you feel if you had to live in a shelter like a tent all the time? Would you choose to be a missionary if you knew you would have to live in a tent and move around a lot?

God may not call all of us to go somewhere like East Asia, but He has called each of us to live on mission no matter where we go. We can live on mission by showing love to everyone we meet and telling others about Jesus. Jesus died for our sins, and **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.** Everyone with faith in Jesus will live forever.

OPTION 2: Trade backs

Form four groups of kids. Instruct each group to complete a series of tasks:

- Each team member must jump rope twice.
- Flip a coin until it lands on heads five times (total, not in a row).
- Roll a tennis ball under each player's legs.

Set aside the items needed for each team to complete the tasks: four jump ropes, four coins, and four tennis balls. Inform the teams that in order to use each item, they must trade one shoe to get their first item and must trade back

each item to get the next. After completing all three tasks, each team will return its tennis ball to retrieve the player's shoe.

SAY • Each time you needed an item, you had to trade something to get it. At the end, you traded back the tennis ball to get your shoe again. This can help us think about our story today.

Jesus paid for our sin by laying down His life. After He died on the cross, He took His life up again. **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.** He traded His perfect life for our sinful ones, and as a result, we can live forever with God through faith in Jesus.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

• pencils and crayons
• paper
• Bible Story Coloring
Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.